



# THE AMERICAN LEGION



## Harry White Wilmer Post 82

6630 Crain Highway, PO Box 441, La Plata, MD 20646

May 2026

[www.Alpost82.org](http://www.Alpost82.org)

301-934-8221

### Commander's Corner

#### Commander's Message:

*By John Flatley, Commander, Post 82*

As we welcome the month of May, I hope this message finds everyone doing well and enjoying the arrival of warmer weather and the many activities that come with the season.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to our Executive Committee for their service and leadership over the past year. Their dedication helps ensure the continued strength and success of our Post. As we begin looking ahead to the coming year, I encourage every member to seriously consider stepping into a leadership role or nominating someone who embodies the values of our organization. Strong leadership doesn't happen by chance—it comes from members willing to step forward and serve.

To submit a nomination, please contact Harry Tafe, Ron Ansell, or Chris La Quay. Nominations will be formally made at our May 12 membership meeting, and additional nominations will be accepted from the floor that evening. Elections will be held during our June 9 meeting.

While all Post leadership positions are open for nominations, we do not currently have anyone running for Post Adjutant. This is a critical role in the day-to-day operations of our Post. Our current Adjutant, Chris Zabriskie, will still be around to assist, but will not be able to cover this role full-time.

### What's Going on at the Post?

#### Friday, May 1 Steamed Shrimp Dinner

Members & Guests 5:00 PM – Until sold out

[SignUp to Help](#)

#### Friday, May 15 S.A.L. Rib Dinner

5:00 PM – Until sold out

#### Saturday, May 16 Armed Forces Day

#### Monday, May 18 Red Cross Blood Drive

S.A.L. Squadron 82 Hosted 12:30 PM

Appointments @ [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

#### Friday, May 22 Poppy Day



Post Auxiliary Drive Thru

#### Monday, May 25 Memorial Day Ceremony

11:00 AM

#### Friday, May 29 ALRiders Spaghetti Dinner

5 – 7:00 PM

#### EVERY WEDNESDAY S.A.L. Queen of Hearts

Drawing in the Lounge at 6:45 PM

#### EVERY THURSDAY Auxiliary BINGO

Doors open at 4:00 PM

### Coming Up

#### Friday, Jun 26<sup>th</sup> Post 82 Golf Tournament

20<sup>th</sup> Annual Joe Williams Golf Tournament –  
White Plains GC

Additionally, the S.A.L. Squadron is seeking someone to serve as Commander. The good news is that the rest of the experienced leadership team plans to remain in place, providing strong support for anyone willing to step into that position. If you've ever considered getting more involved, now is the time—your Post needs you.



I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Harry Lehman (SAL), Jeff Coombs (AL), Jamie Zayas (AL), and Tom Rowe (AL) for taking the time this past month to complete numerous repairs around the Post. There always seems to be something that needs attention, and I truly appreciate the time, effort, and skill our members consistently give to keep our Post in great shape.

With high school graduations quickly approaching, our local JROTC programs are recognizing the outstanding achievements of area cadets. This year, we are proud to provide medals and certificates for Scholastic Achievement and Military Excellence to students from La Plata, St. Charles, Thomas Stone, and Westlake High Schools. (Post 170 will be supporting Lackey, McDonough, and North Point High Schools.) In addition, SAL Squadron 82 will be hosting the La Plata High School awards ceremony here at the Post. Congratulations to all of this year's selectees—we are proud of your accomplishments and wish you continued success.

As spring comes into full bloom, Legion Baseball is ramping up and Post 82 is ready to take on the Southern Maryland Region. A special thank you to Ray Michael for once again leading this effort. Thanks to the generosity of our Post 82 Legion

Family. Ray reports that we will field one Senior team and two Junior teams this year, with many of our players coming from La Plata. Be sure to look for the game schedule and make plans to come out and support our teams. Legion Baseball has a proud legacy—more than half of today's Major League players have come through the program, along with nearly every working MLB manager and even several former commissioners. An incredible 82 Legion alumni are enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame. The list of former players reads like a who's who of baseball history, including Yogi Berra, Ted Williams, Frank Robinson, Justin Verlander, Ryne Sandberg, Roy Campanella, Dusty Baker, Albert Pujols, Greg Maddux, and Chipper Jones. It's a tradition we are proud to continue here at Post 82.

Our monthly steamed shrimp dinners have been a great success over the past few months. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time to help make these events enjoyable for our members and guests. As we look ahead to our May 1 dinner, we will have a few volunteer openings as some of our regulars will be out of town. If you're available and would like to be part of a great team, please consider signing up or simply showing up—we can always find a place for those willing to help.

Finally, we will honor our fallen comrades at our annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 26th at 11:00 AM. I am pleased to share that our guest speaker will be Wendy Rivers, Colonel, USA (Retired). As is our tradition, a light luncheon will follow the ceremony. I encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this meaningful time of remembrance.

Thank you all for your continued dedication to our Post and to one another.

For God and Country,

John

Handwritten signature of John Flatley Jr.

[johnflatleyjr@gmail.com](mailto:johnflatleyjr@gmail.com)

301.848.7664

# 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander's Corner

Hello, my fellow legionnaires!

Hope this newsletter finds you well as we move into warmer days ahead. Our current membership status is 778 members renewed for a 96.88% membership rate, thank you to all that have renewed. For those that have yet to renew for the 2026 Legion year I ask for your assistance on behalf of Post 82, we are currently 25 members short of reaching our 100% goal. Our records show we have 62 members from 2025 that have not renewed for 2026 yet, and with these members we can easily reach our goals. We value you as members of our Post and do not wish to move forward without you. I have personally reached out via phone to complete buddy checks and to see if there are any needs the Post can assist with. You can renew online at [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) or you can stop by Post 82 and drop off your renewal fee of \$45. We encourage you to complete this as soon as possible to keep your membership in good standing and maintain your active years of membership. You can also mail in your renewal to Post 82 PO Box 441, 6330 N. Crain Hwy, La Plata MD 20646.

We have completed our second American Legion 101/ New Member Orientation where we shared information about the American Legion, Post 82, and the great programs we have going on and benefits we offer. This is open to all Post, Auxiliary, Son's, and anyone interested in joining the Post along with their families. Keep an eye on the newsletter for dates and times for our next event.

On April 15th we had our first Legion Member Game night in the Lounge where members enjoyed games, hot dogs, popcorn, and fellowship. Keep an eye on the newsletter for our next game night.

We have also completed our Member Appreciation/Game Day in the hall on April 25th. All members with a 2026 membership card received a free hotdog, chips, beans and water or soda. This included Legionnaires,

Auxiliary and Sons! Cost for family and non-members was only \$5, all enjoyed games, fellowship, and tasty food! More events to follow, if you would like to help plan and run a game night or day, please reach out to me, I would love to hear from you.

I look forward to seeing you at our next dinner or function. If you have any changes or updates to your address, phone, email or if you need assistance in renewing, please let us know.

Thank you,  
Your 1st Vice Commander  
Jamie Zayas -- Always Serving  
[82postlaplata@gmail.com](mailto:82postlaplata@gmail.com)  
301-751-2822

## AMERICAN LEGION GAMING

American Legion Gaming (ALG) is an initiative of the American Legion to engage members, families, and the community through gaming. This could include online computer-based gaming as well as more traditional board and/or card games. Right now ALG is open to legion members and non-members alike and supports goals of Comfort, Connection, and Careers. CALL TO ACTION: Post 82 is looking for one or two people to lead the effort to promote ALG at our post.

Post Adjutant  
Chris Zabriskie  
[zabriskiect@gmail.com](mailto:zabriskiect@gmail.com)  
240-320-6694



## Chaplain's Corner

As I have previously shared, I have a tee shirt produced by a company that promotes PTSD and Veteran Suicide Awareness. On the front it reads "Be Kind" and on the back it reads "Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about." I believe this concept resonates with most folks when one considers the relational, employment, financial, emotional, mental, and physical battles we face in our lifetimes.

While we may not know what battles others are facing, we are all too aware of our own. Sharing them with others is often difficult. However, there is One who knows and cares about the battles we and others are fighting and to whom we can openly share them, God. The Bible is full of scripture verses supporting this statement and provides encouragement in the time of our battles. I offer the following for your consideration and comfort in your battles.

**John 16:33** "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

**Isaiah 41:10** "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

**Philippians 4:6-7** "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

As always, don't hesitate to contact me if there is something with which I may assist you.

Yours in Christ,  
Paul Stockman, Chaplain  
301-768-2514  
[papastockman@yahoo.com](mailto:papastockman@yahoo.com)



Hello Twizzlers:

Please remember to pay your dues as the year is just about over. Our May 12th meeting is election night; please try to attend this meeting. If you are running for an office and cannot be at the meeting, you need to write a letter informing me that you are not able to attend and if elected you will take the position.

At our April 14th meeting we donated to the following:

- **Torch Run for Special Olympics - \$5,000**  
We presented the check to Gus Proctor at BINGO on April 16th.
- **American Legion Baseball Team - \$2,000**
- **Troopathon - \$5,000**



- **K9 Connections - \$2,000**
- **Quilts of Valor - \$5,000** presented by Kathleen Quade

Maggie Larrick informed us the Honor Flight will be rescheduled until this fall.

The Ocean City Convention will be July 15, 16, 17th. If you are going to stay at The Grand Hotel ask for the ALA discount.

Amelia Lukehardt is now at Restore for physical therapy from the fall she took.

May 22nd is Poppy Day, Becky LaQuay will have a drive thru to distribute poppies. If it rains this will be done on the 23rd.

Our next meeting is May 12th at 6pm.

Remember we are here for the Veterans not for ourselves.

For Service not Self,

Lesley Radcliff  
Auxiliary Unit 82 President



A drive-thru poppy distribution will be held at Post 82 on National Poppy Day, May 22, 2026.

The Auxiliary will be in the post parking lot from 10am until 2pm on May 22 handing out poppies and accepting donations. Pin on your red poppy as we honor our fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform and give thanks for our freedom.

The red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice, hope, and remembrance worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms.

Led by the American Legion Auxiliary, each year poppies are distributed and donations collected to support the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs.

Poppies are available in the Lounge in April and May. Please wear the poppy with pride anytime, but especially on May 22 and 25. Donations may be placed in the Donation Can next to the poppy basket.

## SONS OF THE

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# AMERICAN LEGION

**S.A.L. Monthly Meetings are held the First Tuesday of Each Month at 1800hrs**

Southern Maryland Region Adjutant Tom Donahue attended the regular monthly Squadron meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss Detachment and Region programs as the end of the 2025-26 administrative year is fast coming to an end. Part of the discussion centered on the \$5 increase in dues to the Detachment beginning in 2027. Squadron 82 has not decided if the Squadron dues will increase in 2027.

The election of officers will be held at the meeting on May 5. If you are interested in becoming an officer, please let me know and/or attend the meeting. We will be taking nominations from the floor.

Thanks to Gale Willett, Gary Shupe, Roy Yanosh, Lennie Lentz, Cindy Moruzzi, Carol Karpiak, David Quade, Kathleen Quade, Cathy Bryant, and Harry Lehman who volunteered at the baby back rib dinner on April 17. We were glad to have seven residents and two staff members from the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home as guests of the Post 82 family. The next S.A.L. dinner,

baby back ribs, will be on May 15. Check the flier on the website [www.alpost82.org](http://www.alpost82.org).

Adjutant Gary Shupe and I attended the Detachment Executive Committeemen meeting at Kent Island Post 278 on April 19. With the donations received that day, the total for Detachment Commander Jason Miller's Project, Patriot Point, went over the \$100,000 mark.

First Vice Commander Gale Willett and Adjutant Gary Shupe worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) on April 20. The room was fairly packed with forty three residents attending. Three hundred eighty dollars (\$380) were handed out in prizes.

As of the April 17 report, the Squadron 2026 membership is 218 which is 100% of our goal. The renewal rate is just over 93%. Great job but we still have a few members who have not renewed. If your card doesn't have 2026 at the top, please renew as soon as possible. Dues can be paid on-line at [www.legion.org/sal-renew](http://www.legion.org/sal-renew), by mail to PO Box 441, La Plata MD 20646, or in person by dropping it off at the Post. Please note, the on-line process is set up for renewals at the \$20 rate. Dual members and those under 21 should only use the mail or in person options.

Yours in Service,

Dave Tatman  
Commander, Squadron 82



## Patriots on the Post 82 Memorials

S.A.L First Vice Commander Gale Willett continues to research and acknowledge the names on the Post memorials. The following are three more individuals identified on the World War I memorial.

### Frank Vernard Jameson

Frank Vernard Jameson was born on January 8, 1884 in Bel Alton, Maryland. He was the son of Charlie and Anna Jameson.

Mr. Jameson joined the United States Army in 1917. He was a horseshoer in the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Machine Gun Company. By 1919 he was part of the part of the **American Expeditionary Force, Siberia (AEF Siberia)**, a small (7,940 officers and enlisted men) but significant Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War. The deployment occurred between **August 1918 and 1920**, long after the Armistice in November 1918 ended fighting on the Western Front. They were stationed in Vladivostok and along the Trans-Siberian Railway, facing harsh conditions, guerrilla warfare, and combat with both Bolshevik and Cossack forces. The AEF Siberia soldiers in Siberia were there to **rescue stranded troops, protect Allied supplies, deter foreign intervention, and support Russian self-defense** in a volatile post-war environment.

Private Jameson died of lobar pneumonia in Verchneudinek, Siberia, on November 21, 1919. He is buried in the San Francisco National Cemetery.



## Frank Brown Turner

Frank Browne Turner was the son of Robert Hall Turner and Mary (Keech) Turner born on September 21 1895, in Wicomico, Maryland. He entered Yale University in 1914. Before graduating, Turner joined the New York Militia in April 1917 but in June was transferred to the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps. He was then sent to the Ground School at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Upon completing a three month course there, he was ordered to Mineola, Long Island for instruction in flying. He was commissioned as a First Lieutenant I the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps in September 1917.



## Harris Sewell

Harris Sewell was born in Cox, Maryland on September 23, 1893. He joined the United States Army in 1917 and served overseas as a private in the 333<sup>rd</sup> Quartermaster Labor Battalion. He died of interstitial nephritis on March 31, 1919. He is buried in the Suresnes American Cemetery and Memorial in Suresnes, France; the same resting place as our Post namesake Harry White Wilmer.



**ALR Meetings are held the  
Second Thursday of Each Month at 1800hrs**

**The latest scoop from the Steel Pony Corral:**

The Riders are gearing up for Our 5th Annual SMD Legacy Ride. The ride will be held on May 23, 2026, with registration starting at 0830. This ride will help to fund The MD Legacy Run, Warfighter Advance, Vacations 4 Vets and other veterans and community causes throughout 2026. If you want to support, either financially or volunteer to help put on the event, please see Director Jeff Coombs. You can also register to ride the event online at our American Legion Riders Post 82 Public Facebook page. All bikes and cages are encouraged and welcome to ride. Please pray for good weather for Memorial Day weekend.

Gun Raffle ticket sales are progressing, and I still have 120 of the 500 tickets left to sell. Please contact me to get you a ticket pack so you can help us all by selling or purchasing some tickets. There are enough members of the ALR to make this a real easy fundraiser please help the few who have stepped up to make this a very successful fundraiser. This by far is the easiest thing that each of us can do that provides huge dividends for our efforts. Thanks again from BIG SEXY, Gun Raffle Chairman.

Six Riders led by Road Captain Fred (Snake) Heppner attended the MD ALR Spring meeting at Post 96 Brunswick MD on Sat. April 11. It was a great turnout with more than half the 44 MD Chapters represented. We were treated to a very tasty lunch with smoked beef sandwiches being the main course. The weather was nice with sunny skies and mild temperatures. With one stop at Old Glory Harley Davidson in Laurel MD to register their bike mileage for the HD Summer Challenge Ride Program. All Riders returned home safely that evening.

On Sunday April 12th, 8 Riders took advantage of more decent weather to ride down to Post 221 Avenue MD to grab lunch at their monthly weekend sandwich sales that continue one weekend a month through October. For \$9 you get your choice of pit beef or pork loin, and they are both really good, your next opportunity is the weekend of May 16 & 17.

Riders, if you have any submissions of rides or events, please email to [k\\_bryant@comcast.net](mailto:k_bryant@comcast.net) so they can be included in the upcoming newsletters.

### Upcoming Rides and Events:

**9 May 2026 Warrior Canine Connection Ride (See GroupMe or Email for details)**

**Next ALR Meeting May 14 @ 1800**

**16 May 2026 0830-1600 Suttler's Post Farm Day for Vacation 4 Vets** (ALR assisting Charlotte Hall Veterans) Volunteer Opportunity

**16 & 17 May Sandwich Sales Post 221**  
Avenue MD 1100-1600

**23 May 5<sup>th</sup> Annual SoMD Legacy Ride**  
0830 Registration

**29 May ALR Spaghetti Dinner at Post 82**  
1700-1830

On behalf of Director Jeff Coombs, (Animal)  
Kevin (BIG SEXY) Bryant

**“We ride In HONOR of those who have served”**



This isn't just another class—it's a powerful, 60-minute Zoom session that could help save a life.

Through this training you will learn how to:

- Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to recognize those at risk.
- Spot key risk factors and warning signs.
- Understand the types of suicidal ideation and four urgent behaviors that indicate imminent danger.
- Communicate with compassion and confidence when someone may be in crisis.

This opportunity is open to **everyone in the Legion Family—Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders. Get more information and register for a session here**

<https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/be-the-one-training>



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# AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

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Our legacy is not behind us, it's alive in what we do right now.

We are One Team, One Dream, Family Strong.

That isn't just a phrase, it's how we operate. We stand together, we support one another, and we serve with a shared purpose: our Veterans, their Families, and our communities.

We don't follow—we lead. We lead in service when someone needs help and doesn't know where to turn. We lead in compassion when a family is carrying more than they should. We lead in our communities by showing up, stepping in, and setting the standard.

And that leadership matters more than ever.

Ask yourself honestly—if the Legion closed its doors today, what would happen? Who would fill the silence where our voice once stood? Who would carry the weight of the programs, the support, the advocacy, the connection? The answer is simple: there would be a void that cannot be easily replaced.

That's why preservation is not optional—it's our responsibility.

We are the bridge between the past and the future. What was built before us, through sacrifice and service, depends on us to protect it, strengthen it, and pass it forward. If we don't, it doesn't continue.

Preservation means showing up when it's hard. It means leading when it would be easier to follow.

It means committing not just to today—but to the generations who will need this organization tomorrow.

This is bigger than any one of us. But together—as One Team, One Dream, Family Strong—there is nothing we cannot sustain, nothing we cannot grow, and no challenge we cannot meet.

We don't just carry the legacy.

## **We are the legacy**



Nikki  
Commander

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 82 LA PLATA, MD  
THE 5TH ANNUAL  
**SOUTHERN MARYLAND  
GOLD STAR LEGACY RIDE**

**MEMORIAL WEEKEND**

**MAY 23, 2026**

RAFFLES

\$250  
BEST  
HAND



**ALL VEHICLES  
ARE WELCOME**

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 9:30AM

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

**\$30/POKER HAND**

DAY OF PRICING

**\$35/POKER HAND**

MEETING POINT

Harry White Wilmer American Legion Post 82  
6330 Crain Highway, La Plata, MD

KICKSTANDS UP AT 10:30AM

BREAKFAST & LUNCH INCLUDED



MORE INFORMATION <https://linktr.ee/alrpost82> [anita@evokepurpose.org](mailto:anita@evokepurpose.org) @ALRPOST82

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